

Alexandria, Louisiana to the Gulf of Mexico



- **Study Status:**

FCSA executed
April 2003
Feasibility Study is
underway

- **Study Cost:** \$7.3.M

- **Study Issues:**

\$3 million Phase I estimate
is insufficient.

- **Sponsors:**

- Rapides Parish
Gravity Drainage District No. 1
- LADOTD (Potentially)*

* Re-negotiating FCSA
with LADOTD on remaining
features





Project Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, CEMVN-PM-M
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Date: August 25, 2003

Alexandria, Louisiana, to the Gulf of Mexico Feasibility Study

STUDY AUTHORITY: This study was authorized by a resolution of the Committee of Transportation and Infrastructure of the U. S. House of Representatives, adopted July 23, 1997.

STUDY SPONSOR: The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development is the sponsor for the overall feasibility study. Gravity Drainage District No. 1 of Rapides Parish is the sponsor for the first phase of the study, that is addressing flooding problems in the Alexandria area. The FCSA will be modified to include the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development as a sponsor.

STUDY AREA: The study area is the drainage basin for West Atchafalaya Basin Floodway Levee (WABPL) intercepted drainage system. It has an area of about 1,700 square miles extending through nine parishes from Alexandria, Louisiana, to the Gulf of Mexico.

STUDY PURPOSE: The primary purpose of the study is to address flooding problems in the area drained by the intercepted drainage system of the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, between Alexandria, Louisiana, and the Gulf of Mexico. The study authority also includes other study purposes, such as irrigation water supply.

PROBLEMS/INVESTIGATIONS: The WABPL and the South Bank of the Red River Levee prevent flooding from the Red River Backwater Area and the Atchafalaya Basin Floodways. The flows intercepted by these levees are diverted to the WABPL intercepted drainage system, which is also a feature of the MR&T Project. Flooding is a major problem throughout the study area and particularly, from Alexandria to the latitude of U.S. Highway 190.

STATUS/STUDY COST: The Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) for the \$3 million Phase I study was executed with Gravity Drainage District No. 1, of Rapides Parish in April 2003. The reconnaissance report and project study plan were approved in August 1999. One economically feasible plan was developed to reduce flood damages in the Alexandria area. The plan provides for the flood control improvements in the Chatlin Lake Canal and diversion of flood flows to the Red River. Prior to the reconnaissance study, the 1997 session of the Louisiana Legislature established the Atchafalaya and Teche-Vermilion Basins Flood Control Advisory Commission to make recommendations on solutions to flooding problems in the study area. The commission presented its report to the legislature in April 1998. The plans to be addressed in the feasibility study were based on those recommendations. The cost of the overall feasibility study was estimated at \$7.3 million and 6-1/2 years.

ISSUES: The \$3 million Phase I feasibility study estimate is insufficient. The first task for the feasibility study is the preparation of a detailed study cost estimate and re-negotiation of the FCSA. It appears that the Phase I study cost will increase by about \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. The sponsor has been informed – no concern expressed. The Louisiana Bonding Commission approved funding for the study in August 2003.